



Gwydir Street  
Public Baths  
1978

240.61

**Cambridge HEALTH Chronicle**

(see also c. 21.15 – refuse, c. 21.2 cemeteries, c. 29.8 sewage)

**1888**

1888 10 19

Fire in disinfecting building Rifle Butts Row [2.6]

**1889**

1889 04 19

Juby's Court, King Street described as 'insanitary' [2.7]

1889 09 06

fatal case of typhoid at Cheddar's Lane due to refuse polluting well, spreads to York Street & Coldham's Lane, 44 affected [2.8, 1.17]

**1890**

1890 02 12

"Sequah", famous Quack Doctor arrives, crowd take horses from carriage & pull through King St, women give him clock; he 'frees people from pain' [5.5]

**1893**

1893

Sewers started in Coldham's Lanes & Victoria Road [1.1] – *for other sewage stories see c. 29.8*

**1897**

1897 03 17

Not 10 per cent of houses in and around Cambridge have a bathroom. There is one public bath in Cambridge and for its use 1s is charged. How many of us workingmen can afford to pay that? The corporation has plenty of land for the purpose such as Petersfield, the cost of the baths would be not more than £20,000 and it would move one of the standing disgraces of Cambridge. (Letter) 1897 03 17

1897 03 16

The "Cambridge Daily News" makes proposals. A municipal washhouse. We believe there are hundreds of women in Cambridge - the wives of working men - who would hail with the liveliest

satisfaction the establishment of a place where they could do their week's washing with some degree of comfort. How many homes belonging to the humbler classes are there without anything like proper washing and drying accommodation to the occupants of which such a place would be a boon and a blessing 1897 03 16

### **1899**

1899 07 10

Dr Dennis Adams, one of the oldest and best-known medical practitioners of Cambridge has passed away. His career reaches back for many years. His practice was a large one; it was chiefly among members of the University. In celebration of the Jubilee of his practice in 1889 he was presented with a splendid collection of silver candlesticks. It is well known that he was not an admirer of the display of expensive flowers and wreaths at funerals and friends will probably wish to show their respect in some other manner 1899 07 10

### **1900**

1900 02 23

Not within our experience has there been so much sickness as during these last few months. It would take a very skilful actuary to make a full account of what influenza has cost the country. At the Hearts of Oak dinner in Cambridge the secretary reported that sickness has been altogether unprecedented, and they have paid out £7,700 in sickness allowances. Happily though influenza frequently develops into something very serious, in itself it is not deadly 00 02 23

1900 07 31

E.S. Payne has opened premises at Alexandra Street, Cambridge for the manufacture of artificial teeth. Complete sets, upper or lower from £1. Single tooth added, 2s.6d. Easy payment taken. Teeth scaled, stopped or extracted. Trusses and elastic stockings made to order – advert 00 07 31

1900 10 25

An epidemic of disease has broken out in Cambridge which is of such serious importance as regards the public health that we should not be discharging a duty we owe to our readers if we did not draw attention to it, notwithstanding the reticence of the medical authority, which to say the least is inexplicable. The Medical Officer of Health has absolutely declined to take the press into his confidence. That diphtheria is prevalent is beyond dispute, nor is it confined to Cambridge for rumour is that deaths have occurred at Chesterton. The death of certain children attending Park Street mixed infants school first brought the matter under the attention of the local medical authorities. Several deaths have taken place which are directly attributed to the disease CDN 1900 10 25

1900 11 01

We have received an official statement from Mr Alderman T. Hyde, respecting the outbreak of diphtheria at Cambridge. 'Last Friday I stated that we knew of 12 cases of the disease. Since then we have had a rather unexpected increase which made a total of 35 today. There have been four deaths from the disease. With a few doubtful exceptions all cases have been proved to have originated in connection with the Park Street Infants School, although so far investigations have shown no reason for supposing that the actual building on the site has had anything to do with the causation of the disease. No expense or labour will be grudged in the endeavour to stamp out the disease. It is thought advisable not to allow children to attend meetings in public halls during the present conditions' 00 11 01

### **1901**

1901

Underground toilet built at Hyde Park corner [1.4] – *for other toilet stories see c. 29.8*

1901 06 13

Yarmouth Guardians received a report on the dissection of paupers' bodies. They had been sent to Cambridge by officials of the workhouse since 1881. Professor Macalister sent a cheque for £6 14s 6d

for each body but only £5 10s 0d was really incurred for expenses. The railway charge for the carriage of a body was £4 6s.0d but the Master's clerk said it was £4 9s.0d and that he put the other 3s. in the poor box. £1 was paid for a coffin but he received 1s. from the undertaker. All the clerk had to do was to see the body was screwed down, go to the railway station and pay the charge. He said he gave the porters sixpence each but inquiry proved they only received a pint of beer 01 06 13

1901 07 12

Great Yarmouth board of Guardians revived the question of paupers' bodies being sent to Cambridge Anatomical School for dissection. Every friendless person who died in the workhouse should be asked before death if he had any objection to his body being sent away for dissection. Mr Saul thought that was a gruesome and unseemly idea. Dissection was perfectly legal and right; if they declined to allow unclaimed bodies to be used surgeons would be compelled to make experiments on living people or resort to paying for bodies stolen from newly-made graves. The practice will continue 01 07 12

1901 12 19

During the recent epidemic of diphtheria in Cambridge great assistance was rendered by Dr Cobbett of the Pathological Laboratory. He is one of the greatest authorities on diphtheria and as so little was known about the general treatment quite a new plan had to be adopted. As he will not be available in future the Cambridge Public Health committee recommend that Dr Graham Smith be appointed bacteriologist to the council. It was only a skilled bacteriologist who could examine the throats of those who had been in contact with the patient. One child in school might affect twenty or thirty. Other councillors thought they would be creating a new office when they were overrun with officials at the present time. They had organisations all over the place. The Medical Officer of Health was quite capable of dealing with it 01 12 19

**1902**

1902 01 28

Dr F.W. Hutchinson of Cambridge made an ascent with Mr Gaudron, the aeronaut, from the grounds of the Crystal Palace in a balloon of 38,000 cubic feet capacity, to make observations with respect to the presence of bacilli in the upper reaches of the atmosphere. He took with him eight samples of sterilised gelatine and exposed them at different altitudes in order to capture stray microbes suspended in the air over London. These he intends to bring to Cambridge and cultivate, afterwards determining the nature of the bacilli he had collected. 02 01 18

1902 02 01

Cambridge council heard that no demand appeared to exist for public wash-houses and owing probably to the facilities of bathing in the river. Ald Deck said it was true that every house built now was provided with a bath but they did not come within reach of some people who lived in old houses, of which there was a vast number. Public baths would be a great advantage & not only to the working classes. There was not a Turkish bath in Cambridge and a great many people had to go to London to get one. 02 02 01

1902 03 06

A smallpox case from Richmond Road, Cambridge, has been removed to the small pox hut in Coldham's Lane and all steps taken to minimise any future danger. The clothes and the whole of the bedding had been destroyed and the house was thoroughly disinfected. The public vaccinator had vaccinated persons willing to be vaccinated 02 03 06

1902 03 10

Another case of smallpox has occurred at Cambridge Prison, Castle Hill. The spread of the disease is a mystery. The first case was in a prisoner from Maidstone. Prompt isolation followed. Another was found suffering from an infectious disease diagnosed as scarlet fever and he was moved to the Sanatorium. Other symptoms developed and he died. A few hours after a warder was smitten with smallpox and now there is a fourth case, a prisoner confined in the gaol for several months. Elsewhere infection has been traced to letters that have come from London where the epidemic is now raging. At

Cambridge gaol mailbags are repaired in large numbers. They come from all parts of the country and may have carried the microbes that cause the disease. 02 03 10

1902 03 12

Dr Dalton said that in the case of smallpox taking a real hold upon Cambridge the very fact of waiting two or three days for vaccination would be the cause of more cases. He would prefer to pay for vaccination rather than pay for the erection of new smallpox huts. He hoped more people would go openly to the public vaccinators to show it was not accompanied by any taint of pauperism; some believed they would be vaccinated with purer vaccine than they would get if they went to their own medical men. 02 03 12

1902 03 14

Sir – A man from the Cambridge prison, which they knew to be infected with smallpox, was admitted to the Sanatorium and yet no precautions were taken in the way of vaccination. His nurses passed into the room day and night. I object strongly to the want of promptitude in telephoning me as soon as smallpox was suspected so that I might be aware of the possible danger and be able to take precautions. I would not allow my patients to go to the Sanatorium if they are to be exposed to such risks – E. Lloyd Jones. 02 03 14

1902 03 20

Cambridge councillors considered possible sites for public baths, including Mackenzie Road, Quayside and Castle Street. The most suitable is Christ's Pieces. In order to provide a good swimming bath, length baths, a Turkish bath installation, together with boilers etc a sum of £8,000 would have to be expended, exclusive of the purchase of the site. £500 a year would be required for maintenance. In view of the half-hearted character of the public meeting they could not recommend expenditure of so large a sum of money 03 03 20 c

1902 04 03

Chesterton U.D.C. had asked the Prison Commissioners to provide accommodation for small-pox patients at Cambridge Gaol but they did not see their way to do that and urged the local authorities to provide room for the patients in their own accommodation. Chesterton would be prepared to place the small-pox hospital at the disposal of the gaol authorities but felt the prison should guarantee expenses and pointed out the difficulty of the safe custody of the prisoners. CDN 1902 04 03

1902 04 22

Sir – may I call attention to an almost intolerable nuisance that maintains on Mill Road, Cambridge? The shopkeepers are in the habit of sweeping the refuse from their establishments into the streets (especially on Saturday night) with the result that dirty paper is blown about the streets and into the gardens of private houses. It is most objectionable and annoying to have one's gardens and yards filled with rubbish of this description. Is it not an offence against the bye-laws? – Resident 02 04 22 c

1902 05 13

A young Cambridge man who was imprisoned through being in arrears on a wife's maintenance payment contracted small-pox whilst lying at the county gaol, Castle Street. He was removed to the hut but succumbed to the disease on Sunday last. Deceased, we believe, had only been in gaol 18 days. He was buried last night. CDN 1902 05 13

1902 11 14

A piece of work, involving operations similar to those by which the "Tube" railway was constructed, is on the point of being finished, having been in progress for nearly twelve months. It is the sewer connecting the New Cemetery with the Sewage Farm, Cambridge. Its length is over a mile and in some places it is laid to a depth of 24 feet. The greater part of the work has been done by the "tunnelling" system and carried out entirely by Cambridge men under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor 02 11 14

**1903**

1903

Smallpox outbreak during Long Vacation, 100 people per day vaccinated. 146 cases, 15 deaths. Later doubt expressed if it was smallpox [2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4]

1903

Typhoid fever was present in Cambridge during the year, 17 cases in 14 households having been notified. Four were county cases admitted into Addenbrooke's Hospital for treatment; five were imported from Fenstanton, Swaffham, Norfolk, Littleport and London. Two cases were probably due to eating shellfish. Two were nurses who had charge of typhoid patients and others could not be accounted for. Three of the cases proved fatal c03 05 29

1903 05 23

A man living in Ainsworth Street, Cambridge was diagnosed with small-pox. He was forthwith removed to the small-pox huts, Coldham's Lane, and all known contacts vaccinated and kept under observation. He was a goods guard on the Great Eastern Railway whose train shunted opposite the small-pox camp in Tottenham Marshes and there was reason to believe there was communication between persons in the camps and the officials on the train. It is highly probable the disease was incepted from the camps. He made a good recovery. 03 05 23

1903 06 03

The new municipal cemetery, which Cambridge Corporation has prepared on Newmarket Road, was opened for interments. In anticipation of the time when the general public will regard burial more from a sanitary than from a sentimental point of view, a part of the ground adjoining Ditton Lane has been reserved for the erection of a crematorium. The first interment was a child named Alfred Willet Whitmore; the coffin was borne by six young ladies and Mr Ellis Merry was the undertaker. 03 06 03 – *for other cemetery stories see c. 21.2*

1903 06 18

There has been a recurrence of small pox in Cambridge. A well-known tradesman was removed to the Isolation Hospital and everybody who had been in contact with him was vaccinated and the premises and clothes disinfected. Had the information about smallpox spread it must have had a very deterrent effect upon the trade of the town and driven away many 'May Week' visitors. Ladies especially view possible disfigurement with feelings of revulsion. We considered we were justified in withholding the news until the close of festivities. The smallpox is contemporary with a widespread epidemic of scarlet fever which has taxed the Sanatorium almost to its limits. 03 06 18

1903 07 16

Dr Dalton has confirmed that the dangerous epidemic prevalent in Cambridge is smallpox and there have been no less than three deaths from the disease. Nobody who has been vaccinated recently had it but two unvaccinated children had the disease badly. He must insist absolutely on isolation of every case, however mild. He had ordered one tent which held 15 people – tents were very suitable at this time of year – and must order sufficient to provide for every case which required isolation 03 07 16

1903 07 17

On June 18<sup>th</sup> we informed the Cambridge public that a case of smallpox had appeared in the town. The day following we were officially instructed that it was not of smallpox at all, but of chicken pox, there was nothing like an epidemic and there was no cause for alarm. Now the announcement that there have been three deaths from smallpox is so astounding as to be almost incredible. Midsummer Fair has been held, probably the best means of disseminating an infectious disease that could be imagined, and no warnings issued to the public. A terrible scourge has been allowed to run riot without check or hindrance and we are afraid that Cambridge is face to face with a disastrous epidemic 03 07 17

1903 07 21

Since the outbreak of smallpox in Cambridge was official announced there has been a large increase in the number of cases reported. Unfortunately the infection has spread to surrounding villages and a case has broken out at Histon. This has resulted in the abandonment of the Histon Show and Sports, the Waterbeach Show has been postponed, the Promenade Concert on Christ's Pieces cancelled, schools have been closed and the Barnwell Theatre Mission have suspended operations. Wherever crowds assemble in a town where smallpox is prevalent there is danger of infection. 03 07 21

1903 07 28

Sir - An exciting scene occurred at 11.30 pm when the small-pox hearse was just reaching its destination and turning round previous to receiving the body of a young man who had died that morning. The night was very dark and the hearse overturned on its side, the smashing of glass and the bumping of the vehicle on the road causing a great commotion. After some delay it was righted again, the body duly deposited inside and it rumbled and groaned off to the cemetery, grating on the road with its iron-shod wheels in the dead of the night in a most unpleasant manner. Any private firm would have an India-rubber tyred vehicle for such work but Cambridge Corporation have apparently yet to discover that such 'luxuries' exist - 'Mill Road' 03 07 28

1903 08 03

Three additional cases of smallpox have been notified in Cambridge. In a large business house a young lady engaged in taking money became ill and the cause was traced to the money received into the establishment. Some businesses are now disinfecting coins as soon as they are received and none but disinfected coins are given in change. At Foxton the horticultural show has been postponed owing to an outbreak in the village. 03 08 03

1903 08 04

Cambridge Borough has had its pride wounded by the London Express charging it with having incurable slums and possessing filthier homes than Whitechapel. In reply Mr Campkin, a Guardian said: "There is no doubt there is an amount of poverty and squalor in Cambridge but there has been a vast improvement in the St Matthew's district over the last 40 years. There is evidence of the effects of drink in some parts of the town but in the Romsey and Petersfield district the residents are respectable working people". Commenting on the Cambridge slums Dr Roper said: "I think even the very worst are fast becoming demolished; take St Peter's Court, Castle Street, they are pulling that down. In consequence that there are large families in the poor quarters a woman very often has to go out and work as well as her husband to keep things going, and they can't keep their houses quite so clean as they otherwise might. In New Street you will not see much dirt or dilapidation, though in summer time the people are sitting outside nearly half-dressed in consequence of the heat. But their homes are not so bad as you might imagine"

1903 08 06

The slight put upon Cambridge by comparison of its slums with those of Whitechapel continues to call forth indignant protests. "In many working class homes there is only one room for doing everything and it is difficult to keep it scrupulously clean. Poor people can be taught to cover their floors with oilcloth but where is the money coming from? How can it be expected for them to spend all their earnings on beautifying their homes when there is a family to be provided for? Need it be said that the 'better' class people who would equally as dirty were it not for the working people to keep them clean

1903 08 10

Sir - whatever may be said about slums, in Whitechapel you could go into any house in the poorest district but you would find a flushing cistern to every w.c., and that is more than you can find in Cambridge. When we had the sewers put in the Corporation tried to have the flushing cisterns put in but they were ruled out by the objections of the large property owners. Until these matters are remedied we shall always be in trouble, either with this epidemic of some other - Ratepayer 03 08 10

1903 08 26

A meeting arranged by the Cambridge Anti-Vaccination League was held on Market Hill. A large crowd of people assembled but the opinions of the principal speaker aroused some opposition & a little heckling took place. Someone placed a quantity of calcium carbide into the water of the fountain. & the acetylene gas which was generated was borne among the audience to whom the disagreeable odour was most objectionable. 03 08 26

1903 09 29

Sir – a report is circulating that a lad was sent from Cherry Hinton to the tents on Coldham's Common supposed to be suffering from smallpox and that after a week he was sent home, only to be taken away a second time in a few days. Another report is that during the recent heavy rains the beds in the tents were surrounded by water and the deaths that have occurred there have been caused by cold and not by smallpox, as reported. As ratepayers we have a right to know whether this is true or false. – Villager 03 08 29 c

1903 09 09

The Mayor of Cambridge read a letter: "The teacher of the school which my daughter attends has asked that she be sent away from Cambridge during the last 18 days of her holiday in order she may have a period of quarantine before returning". He was sorry Cambridge had such an unenviable reputation. It was not deserved. There was no town in which a smallpox epidemic had been got under with such rapidity and this was due to vaccination. Not one who had been vaccinated had taken the disease. Six weeks ago there were 95 cases under treatment, now there were only 24 (applause) 03 09 09

1903 10 05

At St Matthews' church, Cambridge a service of thanksgiving to Almighty God for his mercies in delivering many from small-pox, scarlet fever and diphtheria was conducted by the Vicar. Since the parish was formed 37 years ago nobody had known anything like the amount of sickness God had been pleased to send them this year. In eight months they had been visited by three terrible diseases, each taking a large number of victims, 12 of which had proved fatal. How the people in the small-pox huts on Coldham Common suffered and longed for health so as to escape what seemed a prison. Those who were still convalescent wondered what was going on in their homes and were looking forward to the time of their release. No one wanted to stay in the huts a day longer than there were obliged to. 03 10 05

1903 10 07

A discovery has been made which seems to throw some light on the now happily disappearing epidemic in Cambridge. A professor claims to have discovered a new species of blood nematode which is productive of a disease called 'craw-craw' & has many points in common with small-pox. He contacted the Cambridge Medical Office and obtained blood films of a doubtful case of small-pox and on examining them found the same nematode. But an expert who was consulted was quite clear that the Cambridge outbreak must be an exceptional form of small-pox 03 10 07

## **1904**

1904

Anti-vaccination movement active, magistrates grant exemption certificates [2.14]

1904 03 29

There is still a doubt in scientific circles as to whether last year's epidemic in Cambridge was really small-pox or a similar disease with another name: 'Craw-craw'. A lecturer on Patho-Histology at Birmingham University has sampled some blood films and is convinced that this the disease which has been puzzling the authorities at Cambridge, Smethwick, Kidderminster and Burton-on-Trent amongst other places. CDN 29.3.1904

1904 04 22

The Cambridge Medical Officer of Health reported that during the recent small-pox epidemic 154 people had been infected of whom 15 had died. At the start the Small-pox hospital consisted of two huts with an administrative block and a caravan for the use of men employed. Subsequently an addition hut and two tents were provided to give a total accommodation of 85 beds. There was also a tent for the nursing staff, a discharge tent, a dining tent, a mortuary hut and an additional caravan for the male staff. 04 04 22

1904 05 18

The placid life of Linton has been stirred by a rumour that the dead body of a pauper had been sold by the Master of the Workhouse to the Cambridge School of Anatomy. This was a perfectly lawful proceeding under the Anatomy Act which provides that the bodies of unclaimed paupers may be used for scientific study. The matter had been debated by the Board of Guardians who voted five for and five against but the Chairman declined to give the casting vote. The Master had taken it upon himself to send the body to Cambridge. But it was not 'sold'. 1904 05 18

1904 05 09

The Association of Managers of Sewage Disposal Works inspected the Cambridge pumping station destructors where all kinds of refuse turned out from households daily, sweepings and other undesirable matter is tipped into huge trucks and burnt, giving off heat used whose steam is used to pump sewage. During winter months some 40 tons of refuse is burned each day. The disinfecter was examined with interest; it was installed in 1902 and during the smallpox of 1904 was of great service in disinfecting a great number of articles using super-heated steam. They then moved to the Corporation sewage farm, Milton Road, for a practical demonstration of sewerage analysis 04 05 09

1904 05 19

Cambridge cemetery committee considered whether to close the whole of the Mill Road burial ground. They had asked the various incumbents as to the number of grave spaces allotted to their parishes and whether it was possible to identify the graves of all persons buried there. It appeared to be dependent on the knowledge of the sexton and there was no way of identifying the position of each grave. There should be a public enquiry. But there were many timid widows who had husbands buried there and would like to be buried there too who would not go to an enquiry. Alderman Kett agreed: he would like his bones to be laid there and had six or seven unoccupied spaces for members of his family. What would an inspector care about such sentiments. He would be overruled by those fanatics of sanitary improvement. 04 05 19

1904 08 25

The Local Government Board have decided to close those parts of Mill Road cemetery which are assigned to the parishes of St Andrew the Less, St Mary the Less and St Botolph but say there is no need for the protection of public health for other areas to be closed. The three portions will be sealed while in the rest of the burial ground interments will continue as usual. This is in accordance with the deep feelings expressed at the inquiry where representatives of the other parishes had protested strongly against their grounds being closed, with the single exception of the Rev Wood who was acting in direct opposition to the wishes of his parishioners. His 'aesthetic' vapourings were appreciated by the Inspector for their true worth. CDN 25.8.1904

1904 11 24

Since September 14 cases of diphtheria have been diagnosed among Cambridge school children, 11 of whom have been removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Swabs have been taken from their classmates and any harbouring the diphtheria bacillus are removed to the Isolation Home. Three cases have proved fatal. One was of a child who died through medical advice not having been sought in time. It had been ill for four days before a doctor was called in. Steps were taken to remove the patient to the Hospital as quickly as possible but when the conveyance arrived at the house death had taken place only a few minutes earlier. CDN 24.11.1929

1904 11 29



Lincolnshire has long been a county noted for drug-taking. A chemist said that he had sold more opium and laudanum in four years at Spalding than during the previous twenty in other parts of the country. The habit had been handed down amongst the inhabitants for many generations. It was originally resorted to as a means of allaying pains resulting from ague but the present generation are not such slaves to the habit as their predecessors. More opium is sold at Peterborough than in any other town in England but it is not one-tenth of what it was 30 years ago. The sale is now mainly confined to villagers, especially women, and the evil appears to be gradually dying out CDN  
29.11.1904

## **1905**

1905

Council Medical Officers department reorganised following smallpox outbreak [2.15]

1905 02 23

Serious allegations have been made against the sanitary administration of Cambridge in a letter to 'The Times'. As that newspaper reaches but a small section of the burgesses it would normally have been reprinted in the columns of the C.D.N. We were, however, requested by the Town Clerk not to give publicity to the complaints until a reply had been given. But now we can print both. The manner involved a furnished apartment in which a child died from diphtheria. Finding the apartments to let 'The Times' journalist took them. She claimed it had not been disinfected and a survey showed very serious defects in the W.C. between the two bedrooms. 05 02 23

1905 03 27

Midwives Act comes into force [2.16]

1905 04 20

Cambridge Medical Officer reported on the recent scarlet fever epidemic which affected undergraduates at one college. The only common link was the milk supply. He discovered that the dairy had obtained a supplementary supply from fifteen different sources. One of these had a milker who had visited relatives at a village where scarlet fever had been present and had suffered from a sore throat. But there was no definite proof he had suffered from the disease. The dairy had stopped distributing any milk other than that of its own cows and no further cases have occurred. 05 04 20 a-c

1905 04 25

A valued correspondent asks whether the Cambridge Town Council are going to take any action in regard to the recently-constructed drinking place for cattle on Midsummer Common. "In view of the recent scarlet fever epidemic which was directly traced to infected milk their apathy is remarkable. Unless something is done the cattle from which the milk supply of Cambridge is principally derived will shortly be feeding on sewage" An iron trough should be inserted in the existing waterway so that the water the cattle are drinking would escape the sewage which currently mingles with it. 05 04 25

## **1906**

1906

Voluntary Association for Maternity & Child Welfare originated [2.17]

1906 03 28

Dr Bushell Anningson has served as Cambridge Medical Officer of Health since 1875. Then the whole sewerage was most unsatisfactory and 800 houses in Sturton Town had only middens and cesspools. 2,000 houses had no water supply other than pumps or wells – in many cases contaminated with sewage – and there were no arrangements to cope with a serious epidemic. Household refuse was collected by private individuals who did the work for what they could get out of it. They used donkey carts which were emptied in their own backyards in the neighbourhood of Gas Lane where it was examined for saleable material such as bones and cinders. 06 03 28a

1906 04 16

One of the most important activities of Friendly Societies is the provision of skilled medical advice in time of sickness. Cambridge Medical Association was formed in 1883 with a membership of 1,740 and one medical officer. It now serves 7,350 and has engaged two and sometimes three. It is important to keep good doctors: you must treat them as gentlemen and their services should be made as pleasant as possible 06 04 16a

1906 04 19

The Borough Surveyor bought a new watering van at a cost of £52. They had 11 vans but four were unfit to travel as the wheels would not go round. With the sudden arrival of hot weather there was not one fit for use. They should have been overhauled at the end of the season. But scavenging in two districts had been let out to contractors and the vans belonging to the council were in their hands. 06 04 19b

1906 06 14

Cambridge water supplies might be polluted from sewage from Cherry Hinton and Fulbourn. Householders use pails for the collection of excreta and if this is spread on the land then the possibility of typhoid organisms finding their way into the water supply must be remote. A more serious menace is the soakage of infected matter from improperly-constructed cesspools and the sewage from the Asylum. Some Cambridge people have started to boil their water. 06 06 14a & b

1906 11 02

Eugen Sandow has opened consulting rooms in Sidney Street where advice regarding health matters may be obtained. Provided your ailment is not an incurable one he guarantees to bring you to a pitch of physical perfection. The Cambridge Manager will take particulars of your case and forward them to him in London where Mr Sandon will plan your course and the Cambridge Manager will show you how to correctly carry out instructions. 06 11 02b 06 11 22a

1906 12 05

Sir – each scarlet fever patient leaving the Cambridge Sanatorium has to have a final disinfecting bath, after which he is put into clean clothes sent from home. But the patient is bathed and dressed in the bathroom in which all the patients have been peeling for an indefinite period. The room is therefore more infectious than the wards themselves. Discharged patients risk carrying home the infection they have been isolated to obviate – J.H. Dalton 06 12 05

1906 12 10

Though blind from birth, Miss Mary Start was never one to sit down hopelessly under the infirmity and as a masseuse found a means of supporting herself and conferring service upon many sufferers gaining a distinguished clientele. Her skill was not reserved for the rich; many poor people had reason to be grateful to her. She played chess, studied Esperanto and read practically every book published in Braille. 06 12 10

**1907**

1907

Dental inspection for children introduced [1.3]

1907 01 24

Mr G.A. Mackenzie of Ross Street has organised services for deaf and dumb children at Tracey Memorial Hall. They have been attended by nearly 30 people, many of whom have received excellent training in institutions and some have already been confirmed He was formerly Diocesan Missioner at Oxford and secretary of the Liverpool Deaf and Dumb Association. 07 01 24a

1907 09 28

Sir – the cartage of the sewage filth into Milton is again in full swing. Considering the outbreak of fever at the Hospital and at Cherry Hinton everyone must agree this is a terrible risk to run and it should be stopped. Crude sewage was run as usual on Sunday down a ditch to Baitsbite Lock which

should supply the lower fen with pure water. This is within a few feet from where the University boats start, and would hardly commend itself to rowing clubs – ‘Ratepayer’ 07 09 28

1907 10 17

Cottages in Cave’s Yard, Union Road, Chesterton are as about as bad as any in the district, an inquest into an infant was told. Vermin found on the child’s body were not the fault of the mother: it would be impossible to keep such a house in that district free from vermin; the district ought to be burnt down. The slums in Old Chesterton are as bad as any you will find in London, a doctor testified. But people had to live somewhere. 07 10 17

## **1908**

1908

Dental clinic opened: Cambridge the first town to give proper attention to children’s teeth & only one with complete scheme for regular dental examination of every school child once a year [1.11]

1908

One in eight infants under 12 months die [2.17]

1908 04 15

Cambridge MOH report- 08 04 15 & a

1908 09 18

The Cambridge Church of England Mission to the Deaf and Dumb was started two years ago to meet their spiritual needs. It meets at St Philip’s church and attracts people from Swaffham Bulbeck, Milton and Trumpington. Several special services of Holy Communion have been held with Mr G.A. Mackenzie interpreting in the sign language CWN 08 09 18 p5

1908 11 06

The Cambridge District Nurses moved into their new home standing in its own grounds on Newmarket Road. Designed by W.M. Fawcett and built by Coulson and Lofts, it has a smart exterior appearance. Facing the road is the entrance to the surgery with the dining room, and kitchen with sitting rooms for the Superintendent and nurses on the first floor together with four bedrooms and another three on the second floor. The building is lighted by incandescent gas and fitted with electric bells CWN 08 11 06 p5

## **1909**

1909 01 29

Children’s teeth – Cunningham, dentist – 09 01 29

1909 05 21

Health of Cambridge report – 09 05 21

1909 09 03

Dr George Cunningham told an International Congress in Berlin of the work of the Cambridge School Dental Clinic, the only one of its kind in England. Mr Sedley Taylor of Trinity College had been shocked at the state of children’s teeth and funded a dentist to investigate. He found the condition of their temporary teeth was so bad that proper treatment was impossible. The best thing was to concentrate exclusively on permanent teeth which appear after the sixth year. The results were so convincing that the Town Council decided to fund the clinic. CEN 09 09 03

## **1910**

1910 02 11

If the death rate for consumption continues to fall at the present rate it should be extinct in Cambridge in the next 20 years, said Dr Laird at the Tuberculosis Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. Last year there were about 200 cases and 65 deaths. If a patient stays at home a Health Visitor provides

spittoons, proper handkerchiefs and disinfectant; if they go to the Sanatorium the house is disinfected, cleansed throughout, re-papered and limewashed. A new pavilion will be built for those who live in overcrowded rooms or who cannot have a bed to themselves. 10 02 11d & e

1910 02 12

Complaint that bathrooms not provided in new houses 10 02 12

1910 05 06

Under the Midwives Act no woman can habitually attend women in childbirth unless she is certified. There were 54 midwives on the register of whom 30 were trained. Ten of the untrained women were between the ages of 65-75 and might need replacing before long by reason of death or infirmity. There was only one trained midwife at Willingham and an untrained woman at Landbeach. There were none at Isleham, Burwell, Wicken, Upware, Milton, Cottenham, Swavesey or Histon. Some mothers can afford the fee of a medical practitioner but are unable also to pay the full fee of a skilled nurse and so may turn to unregistered women 10 05 06b & c

1910 06 24

Amongst those who took their degrees in Theology at the Senate House was G.A. Mackenzie the Missioner of the Church of England Deaf and Dumb Mission for Cambridge. He has attained his degree in spite of the fact that he was born deaf. He started the present mission in the Tracy Hall, Cockburn Street in 1906 where services and Bible-classes are held every Sunday in the finger and sign language. About 30 deaf persons attend regularly 10 06 24g

1910 12 30

Death of Walter Edward Pain, chemist – 10 12 30b

## **1911**

1911 01 28

Red Cross Society Voluntary Aid Detachments formed to complete medical establishment required for Territorial Force in event of invasion, County Council hold courses [3.3]

1911 02 18

Milk depot established to provide pasteurised milk in sealed containers for infants [3.4]

1911 03 10

Measles is very widely prevalent in Cambridge just now, largely due to the fact that it is nearly three years since there was an epidemic and a large population of susceptible children has grown up. Parents should be familiar with the symptoms which are similar to those of a common cold and should keep the children at home until quite certain measles will not develop. This is not a trifling complaint: the average deaths from measles is five to six times higher than from scarlet fever and a doctor should be called in immediately it is suspected 11 03 10

1911 07 15

Byelaw proposed that refuse must be placed in galvanised receptacles, feel tenants might use them for wheelbarrows, coal scuttles or to give babies baths; cost high, byelaw withdrawn [1.5,4.1]

1911 08 12

Surprise at number of ladies who smoke [3.6]

1911 10 27

The Cambridge Society for the Blind was established at a meeting attended by the Masters of several colleges. The number of blind were gradually tapering off as there were few diseases of the eye that were not understood and most were preventable or remediable. But there should be a society to watch over their interests. Sadly H.M. Taylor of Trinity was unwell. When his sight first failed he had the greatest difficulty in learning anything about the blind. He had given his powerful intellect for others

who suffered the same trouble and had established a firm to publish embossed scientific works for the blind. 11 10 27e [1.5]

## **1912**

1912

Proposal to ban smoking in New Theatre rejected [2.22]

1912

Romsey Town Institute have bath that members can use, 1d cold, 2d hot, few use it [2.23]

1912 05 17

Assistant dentist to be appointed to look after children's teeth – 12 05 17c

1912

Insurance Act; Doctors pledge not to work the scheme but eventually decide to go on the panel for 3 months [3.1]

1912

Borough council byelaw re siting wcs etc [NI.3.4]

1912 07 12

Since Midsummer Fair there has been a very great increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever. The disease had been epidemic in Cambridge for a long time and owing to the mildness of the cases it is proving most difficult to cope with. Many are only discovered during the 'peeling' stage. Numbers of children in an infectious state attended the fair resulting in the sudden jump of reported cases 12 07 23e Interview with a victim – describes symptoms – 12 07 12l

1912 07 19

Scarlet fever outbreak statistics, started Castle End – 12 07 19b

1912 07 19

The Medical Officer's report on pure milk supplies includes excellent photographs showing the good caused by pulling down old cow sheds and their replacement with up-to-date buildings. There are 305 milch cows in Cambridge, kept by 30 cowkeepers, but a large number of purveyors buy supplies from Huntingdon, Norfolk and Buckingham while cream is brought from as far away as Wiltshire or Somerset. The average consumption is less than half-a-pint per head per day. Amongst the poorest milk is a luxury and used chiefly in tea. The practice of ladling out milk from a deep can is a source of contamination: the milkman's hand may enter it or rain and dust get in when the lid is removed. 12 07 19

1912 10 04

Chelmsford Board of Guardians passed a resolution in favour of the bodies of paupers who die in the Workhouse and are not claimed by relatives being sent to the University Medical School, Cambridge, for experimental purposes. One Guardian described the proposal as a scandal, but others, including two clergymen, said they would be willing to allow their own bodies to be used for a similar purpose. 12 10 04j

## **1913**

1913 01 03

January 15<sup>th</sup>, the date on which medical benefits are due to begin under the National Insurance Act, will find Cambridgeshire prepared. Up to last Saturday Cambridge doctors showed a solid front against working the Act but a meeting was hurriedly called at which they agreed a resolution: "That to save from absolute ruin many of our fellow practitioners ... we can no longer condemn those who are forced in self-preservation to go on the panel". But they express 'bitter animosity' against the Government's methods. 13 01 03a

1913 06 20

Cambridge Provident Medical Institution was established in 1883 to secure medical assistance during illness for the working classes, domestic servants and others unable to pay the usual professional fees. At one time 2,000 names were on the books but this declined as other friendly societies were established and now the Insurance Act means it must be wound up. W.R. Brown served as assistant collector and secretary till disabled by an illness which ultimately proved fatal 13 06 20 p5 CIP

1913 08 08

The British Dental Association conference heard of the work of the Cambridge Dental Clinic 13 08 08 p5,6,10 CIP

1913 10 17

Big public baths were really a luxury but the council should spend money on cottage baths in the poorer quarters of Cambridge. They were necessities for those who had not opportunities in their own private houses to wash themselves. In Germany schools were built with baths and the children were required to bathe once a week. In backward Russia there was the village bath for everyone. Bradford had seven different types. Could not the Corn Exchange be put to double use by making a bath at the bottom and have the corn merchants above? 13 10 17 p4 CIP

1913 12 05

Huntingdonshire & Cambridgeshire are amongst the most serious cancer localities in England, research over the period 1901-1910 shows. 13 12 05 p5 CIP

## **1914**

1914

Need for bath houses & cleansing stations for school children stressed [3.8,5.4]

1914 03 20

Amongst those who took their M.A. was Mr G.A. Mackenzie who is the first to attain the degree despite being born deaf. For some years he was a well-known artist in Liverpool, then became a diocesan missionary in Oxford. In 1906 he came to Cambridge and founded the Ely Diocesan Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb. At the same time he read for his degree, attaining his B.A. in 1910. He learned to speak with the aid of his mother and an elocutionist and can now conduct all his business by speech. 14 03 20a

1914 12 18

Professor Sims Woodhead, said while members of the Sixth Division were based in Cambridge, before going to the front, one man was found dead in his tent. There were rumours he had succumbed to typhoid inoculation but a post-mortem showed he had not been given one. To get the best results from inoculation men should be rested and given light food. Then they would be well again after one or two days. But a man who would not rest and have his arm in a sling was four of six days in a very uncomfortable condition 14 12 18

## **1915**

1915 05 14

Dentist in wartime – work at 1<sup>st</sup> First Eastern General Hospital 15 05 14 p7

1915 07 16

Measles epidemic accelerated due 20,000 men of Welsh division who billeted in private houses 15 07 16 p4

1915 08 29

Tuberculosis conference at New Medical Schools addressed by Dr Varrier-Jones 15 08 29 p2

## **1916**

1916 07 26

Bushel Anningson, Medical Officer of Health - port, obituary – 16 07 26e, f

1916

Half sewage passed into river untreated, resignations from committee; due lack of care when laid pipes crack & water gets in from soil, but has transformed Cambridge from damp place to dry & healthy - few years ago impossible to dig down 7 feet without hitting water, now 20 feet, mists stopped [2.2]

1916

Flooded state sewage farm due to experiments to see what possibilities; daily flow 3 million gallons, can dispose of only 2 [2.3]

## **1917**

1917

300 babies at Corn Exchange show [Rev Yr 7.1919]

## **1918**

1918 10 30

Influenza Epidemic - no signs of abatement of influenza, outlying districts, which were immune a week or two ago, are now attacked, and the epidemic still proceeds. Public schools, which were to have re-opened next Monday, will in all probability remain closed for a further period. The doctors agree that the present type of the disease is very virulent, and one of its features is the great rapidity with which it spreads. There has been a tremendous run on the chemists for eucalyptus, quinine, etc., but the great preventative is, we are told by the highest authority, "open air and free ventilation." 18 10 30 CIPof

1918 12 04

Influenza Scare— shops were complaining that they were getting large stocks of bacon on hand because people would not buy it on account of the idea that influenza was due to eating it. Dr. Laird (Medical Officer) could not find the slightest evidence in support of the idea that the present outbreak of influenza was attributable to the eating of bacon from animals which had suffered from swine fever. There was no evidence of swine fever being transmissible to man 18 12 04 CIPof

## **1919**

1919 09 24

VAD in Cambs; notable record of work in days of peace and war, by Alex Wood – detailed account – 19 09 24b

## **1920**

1920 02 21

Cambridge branch of council for combating venereal disease presents play - CDN 20 02 21

1920 05 10

National council for combatting venereal disease, Cambridge branch 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting  
- CDN 20 05 10

1920

British Red Cross Society ambulances stationed at March and Cambridge are available

1920 07 21

British Red Cross Society motor ambulance service a boon – details – Ch 20 07 21a  
For anybody at charge of 1s 3d per mile, reduction if poor - CDN 20 07 17 [6.7]

1920 10 06

Borough dentist, William H. Jones, resigns – Ch 20 10 06a

1920 12 29

Disabled ex-servicemen employment, 18 men being trained in tailoring, 12 each in jewellery, clock repairing and carpentry, 40 in diamond-cutting; photos in English Leather Co boot repairers and man driving traction engine – Ch 20 12 29a

## **1922**

1922 02 15

Motor ambulance to replace old push ambulance which the only means the police had for dealing with street accidents and emergencies presented by special constables – 22 02 15, photo – 22 02 15a [1.10,2.19,3.2]

1922 03 07

Faith healing in Cambridge. Remarkable evidence at inquest on diphtheria victim. An inquest was held by the Borough Coroner on a boy aged five, the son of a bricklayer, who had died from diphtheria. The parents had not called in a doctor until it was too late. The father said the boy had been ill for the last week or so, and had been away from school. "I belong to the Peculiar People and we believe in faith healing – the laying on of hands and anointing with oil". On March 4<sup>th</sup> the boy appeared to be worse and could not get his breath easily. He sent his wife for the Doctor at midnight and while she was gone the boy collapsed in his arms and could not draw his breath. The doctor said that if one went out to every child that was unwell one would be out half the night. Next morning the mother called and told him the child was dead. The child's brother had been swabbed at school as there were cases there. Unfortunately deceased was absent from school then. The Coroner said "When a case like this occurs it not only affects the parents and their children, but it may have a very serious effect upon the whole town" 22 03 07

1922 04 29

At the Grand Council of the Red Cross Society and St John Ambulance Association Mrs Hartree raised the question of the police ambulance, and said she understood that the police ambulance was to be kept in the town, and that the Red Cross Ambulance should be used for long distances. However it was seen that the Police ambulance had gone on long distances - Ipswich and Norwich. Mrs Pryor said she knew the ambulance had been used extensively at the Evelyn Nursing Home. The Chief Constable said that the objection to the Red Cross Ambulance was that it was not heated, but they had very quietly informed him that it was heated and the ambulance had been much improved lately 22 04 29

## **1923**

1923 10 26

Cambridge public health committee have asked the surveyor to prepare plans for the erection in Gwydir Street of a building containing about 18 slipper and two douche baths. Dr Dalton said there was great need for washing baths in Cambridge. Three quarters of the houses in the town were without baths, and he believed there was only one place in the town - a hairdresser's - where there were baths available for the use of the public. There were 20,000 people in Petersfield, St Matthews and Romsey town districts alone. This was not a luxury, but a necessity 23 10 26

## **1924**

1924 11 02

The first of a series of film displays with the object of educating public opinion of certain dread diseases was held in Newnham. Of all the dread diseases which devastated civilised countries to-day, venereal diseases were perhaps the most serious. A centre was established at Addenbrooke's where treatment was free and secret. Since 1917 the number of attendances was 11,905. The disease was so serious as to warrant the most vigorous propaganda. The responsibility of parents in the education of their children in sex matters ought not to be shirked. 24 11 02



## **1925**

1925 03 20

Cambridge Chief Constable reported that the present motor ambulance is showing signs of wear and in need of a thorough overhaul. It had travelled upwards of 13,000 miles and conveyed 1,500 patients. It had cost was £800, the chassis was second-hand. During this time £700 has been received for its use by private persons. The committee recommended the purchase of a new motor ambulance, built by a special ambulance body builder, at a cost not exceeding £1,000 25 03 20

1925 06 09

Speaking of the need for a Bath House in Gwydir Street, Cambridge, Dr Laird said the only houses in the area with baths were 50 being built by the Corporation in Vinery Road and about 80 houses in Guest, Willis and Collier roads. A very small proportion of the houses in Cambridge had baths. The absence of such facilities was a contributory cause of disease. The Ministry wished to defer it because they thought bricklayers should be employed on housing schemes and hesitated to sanction schemes that would take bricklayers from houses 25 06 09

1925 12 12

The Cambridge Women's Welfare Association was formed recently to bring a knowledge of birth control methods within reach of poor mothers. It is a rule that every woman attending must be seen by a doctor and the Cambridge Centre, Fitzroy Hall, Wellington Street has both a lady doctor and a certified midwife in attendance. The London Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics began its work in a small way at Walworth and now has centres at North Kensington and Wolverhampton as well as Cambridge. At Walworth 5,275 separate cases have been dealt with since its work began in 1921 - 25 12 12

## **1926**

1926 03 02

The motor ambulance service in Cambridge continues to prove of great benefit and increased demands have again been made both for accidental and private cases. An additional motor ambulance has been purchased and has proved of great assistance. The number of calls received was 701, 175 to accidents and cases of sudden illness in the streets and 526 to private removal cases. The Watch Committee have excused payment in several cases of private removals, where the persons were in necessitous circumstances. The ambulances are available at any hour of the day or night upon application to the Central Police Station or Fire Station 26 03 02

1926 03 12

A Cambridge school girl died of small-pox at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Mill Road and as a result the East Road Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools have been closed for at least a week for disinfection. The Medical Officer strongly advises people to get vaccinated. The last outbreak occurred in 1921 when a man was affected. There was also an isolated outbreak in 1919 - 26 03 12 [1.13]

1926 11 19

A Cambridge dispenser claimed he used drugs to make up "pick-me-ups" for undergraduates in the morning. The judge: "Do they require 'pick-me-ups' in the morning?" (Laughter.) "They do things now that we never thought of". He made them up out of his head, usually mixing three tinctures. They were drunk in a wineglass of water. They were used every day during term time. The undergraduates looked something of a wreck in the morning and owed to having had a little refreshment at night. (Laughter.) 26 11 19

## **1927**

1927 01 22

Public Baths open in Gwydir Street [1.16]

1927 07 05

A state bordering on perfection” is the report of the Cambridge Public Dental officer on the treatment of elementary school children during 1928. 642 parents had written to refuse treatment for their children but we shall slowly educate the public that dental treatment for children is well worth while, he says. The improvement in the condition of the teeth has advantageously affected the physique of the children – in 1908 17 per cent of the Cambridge children were of poor physique, whereas in 1925 only 1.8 per cent were found to be so. 28 07 05

1927 08 06

Discuss provision of maternity home [2.5]

## **1928**

1928 05 08

The work of the Cambridge Birth Control Clinic was explained to Cambridge Women’s Welfare Association. The foremost difficulty was the absence of a contraceptive method so simple and effective as to meet the needs of the over-tired, feckless, under-housed, unintelligent or mentally-deficient woman. But although they should do something to enable people to have just the children they could manage, their methods, generally called ‘birth control’, were disgusting and filthy. There was danger in the free use of contraceptive methods by unmarried young people. They might be getting to the morals of the poultry yard. 28 05 08

1928 10 16

In Salisbury Villas, Station Road, Cambridge is an embryo Missionary School of Tropical Diseases and Hygiene. Since its inception 85 missionary candidates have received instruction in anatomy, bacteriology and medicine to enable them to care for their own health when far from qualified aid and alleviate sickness and suffering on the field where they will be working. It was founded by the Rev. E.S. Fellowes-Farrow and housed in rooms in his private residence. 28 10 16

1928 11 22

1928 has been a bad year for the prevalence of diphtheria with over 100 cases in Cambridge, resulting in 14 deaths. There have been 37 cases in elementary schools since September and six have ended fatally. Taken early the disease can be treated with a serum but parents are liable to mistake the first symptoms for those of a slight cold, a sore throat or the mumps. There is no traceable cause for the outbreak and personal contact, not insanitary conditions, is a primary cause of its spreading. 28 11 22 [1.18]

## **1929**

1929 01 12

Sir – The Cambridge Surveyor offers to supply ‘Standard Bins’ at 4s. 9d and limit the amount of refuse. These are certainly tidy but judging from the state of some of the bins one feels that potential disease forces lurk under the lids, especially on murky warm nights. The advantages of the old wooden box or tub is that when the bacteria and damp have done their work the said container perforce refuses refuse – I.M. Tired. Editor: I believe the sanitary dustbins are infinitely preferable to the old wooden boxes without lids that often decorate our pavements and provide a happy hunting ground for stray dogs. 29 01 12

## **1930**

1930 02 28

Two bottles of dead flies were produced at Cambridge council meeting in support of the contention that a rabbit skin factory in York Terrace was still a public nuisance. They had been caught in neighbouring houses. Residents said life was unbearable on many occasions and a man suffering from tuberculosis had to sleep with his windows shut because of the obnoxious smells which were worse at night. But the Medical Officer said that in spite of careful inspection no smells, flies or bugs were found. 30 02 28

1930 03 08

Sir – the rabbit factory in York Terrace, Cambridge, is a disgusting nuisance, excluding a horrible stench. Had this factory been on Grange Road the foundations would never have been dug but York Terrace stands for poverty and insignificance and so maggots, flies and stench should apparently be borne with that humility that has been the bane of the workers all down the ages – P.J. Wright. 30 03 08

Sir – I am one of the fortunate ones employed at the rabbit warehouse in York Terrace, Cambridge. I came here about two years ago to grade these skins. It is a warehouse, not a factory; there has never been an outbreak of fever among the employees and a healthy child of 13 may start work there. To close it would add about 20 names to the unemployment register – T.A. Edwards 30 03 08b

1930 04 30

Cambridge Guildhall was crowded with an audience chiefly composed of young men and women, but with a fair leavening of older folk, who had come to hear Dr Marie Stopes give an address on birth control. She spoke rapidly for an hour and replied to many questions. Thousands of mothers, having had three or four children, with perhaps only one year between them, finding it difficult to get sufficient food and worn out were in dread of another unwanted child. What was wanted was spaced babies from radiant mothers. Dr Stopes had been abused, insulted and misrepresented but she made people think and talk about birth control. 30 04 30a & b

## **1931**

1931 10 02

A new luxury ambulance will soon be seen in the streets of Cambridge, replacing the older of the two Borough Police ambulances. It is an Armstrong-Siddeley fitted with self-changing gears and equipped with a wheel stretcher and Mosley 'float-on-air' bed. It is the last word in comfort with a Thermorad exhaust heater to warm the interior in cold weather and opaque glass so patients can see out. 31 10 02b

1931 10 23

Residents of York Terrace protested about the rabbit-skin warehouse in Sturton Street. They had large blue-bottles in their homes and maggots had been seen crawling on the pavement within a few inches of their doors. The proprietor had put in different machinery but had not obviated the nuisance. It should be moved from that crowded area so people could live free from the smells, maggots and flies. 31 10 23c & d

## **1932**

1932 01 18

Complaints have been received about the rabbit skin warehouse in Sturton Street. Inhabitants of York Terrace say it caused effluvia and was a nuisance injurious to their health due to abominable smells which prevented them opening their windows and because of the maggots which escaped from the works and entered their houses. 32 01 18

1932 02 19

York Street residents signed a petition complaining about the Sturton Street rabbit skin factory. It had started in 1928 and the skins were stored and dried on the premises. The smell was very offensive and unhealthy, like old bones burning, there were maggots in the streets and blow flies as big as small bees. It was very bad in August – but the factory was only open from September to March. 32 02 19 & 19a

1932 06 17

Dr F.C. Searle is giving up his practice in Cambridge and will take up an appointment as a medical attendant on a ranch in Kenya Colony conducted by former students of Trinity College, known to him as patients during their stay at the University. "I have always felt the call of the wild and shall be in my element roughing it hundreds of miles from civilisation", he said. He has resigned from the Rotary

Club and as medical officer to the Cambridge Home of Mercy. He will not be accompanied by his wife and children, for whom he has taken a house in Cambridge 32 03 14

A Cambridge doctor claimed payment from an undergraduate for a course of sun ray treatment. He sent his account to the college but the tutor had not been told the student had been ill and queried the charge. When undergraduates are going down it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to get them to pay their bills, he lost more from undergraduates than any other kind of patients, the doctor complained. 32 06 17 c& d

### **1932**

1932 12 03

White walking sticks for blind provided [1.7]

### **1933**

1933

New Health Centre established [1.11]

1933 02 28

The Medical Superintendent reported a rather severe epidemic of influenza at Fulbourn Mental Hospital involving a large number of inmates and staff. The epidemic spread to the female side and 105 patients were affected, 30 dying. None of the staff died. The epidemic lasted nearly a month. The Visitors expressed their appreciation to the staff for the extra and hard work during a very trying time. 33 02 28b

1933 03 29

School dentist's report – 33 03 29b & c

1933 05 18

Cambridge Mothercraft Clinic gives information and teaching which saves women many hours of anxiety and babies many terrible pains. They have held classes for expectant mothers and six have come to the clinic for help and advice. It is open two days a week and has seen 160 attendances but needs 360 people to pay a guinea a year to cover expenses. 33 05 18 a & b

1933 05 26

Deaf-mute people were cut off socially and industrially, many became a burden on their families and were sent to institutions at the age of seven. The answer lay in one word: 'Papworth'. A village settlement should be established in pleasant surroundings where they could live in an entirely self-contained community. They could make their own township and find a suitable vocation in working the land. The difficulties of normal children born in such a colony, of the marriage of deaf-mutes and the sterilisation of the unfit were touched upon at a meeting in Cambridge 33 05 26d

1933 10 16

The new Municipal Health Centre in Auckland Road houses the school dental and medical clinics as well as maternity and child welfare centres. After health visitors started in 1906 infant mortality had dropped from 114 per 1,000 down to 38 last year. As for the dental clinic it was Dr Charles Cunningham and Mr Sedley Taylor whose combination of science and benevolence set an example which had been followed all over the civilised world. 33 10 16

1933 11 30

Dr Charles Frederick Searle's name removed from Medical register – 33 11 30

### **1935**

1935 05 27

Thomas Henry Connor, Cambridge dentist dies – 35 05 27

1935 09 02

A widow, married woman and a waiter were charged with procuring a miscarriage. The man said a girl arrived in Cambridge and told him she wanted something done. He went to Mrs S—who said she knew a woman to go to. There was only one thing that might be effective. It would cost £3. But Mrs D--- said she'd been only paid £1.10s for what she had done. 35 09 02

1935 12 18

Death statistics show that measles and whooping cough had caused as much loss of child life as diphtheria and scarlet fever. Since 1910 influenza had caused at least 1,400 deaths in Cambridgeshire, even higher than in the five years preceding the Great War. Improved travelling facilities and cheap cinema entertainment were great causes of the spread of infections and until people refrained from exposing others to risk in those surroundings there could be little improvement, Dr F Robinson warned Rotarians 35 12 18a

**1937**

1937 01 30

Horace Coulson, the well-known chemist, was one of the best-liked men in Cambridge. – 37 01 30a

1937 03 20

St Dunstan's organised a reunion of war-blinded men at the Dorothy Café. Their aim has always been to re-establish the men in their own homes and consequently they have lost touch with fellow sufferers. There were demonstrations of the Talking Book Machine, a kind of gramophone which can be used to play both ordinary records and special recordings of books which run for about 25 minutes. The machine has only been in production for a year but already 100 books have been recorded. 600 have been distributed, half to soldiers, and half to civilians. 37 03 20b & c

1937 07 29

Dr A.J. Laird has served as Cambridge Medical Officer of Health for 29 years. Since 1908 the death rate, infant mortality, tuberculosis and all ailments had dropped with the possible exception of cancer. There'd been no complaints about the Infectious Diseases Hospital and he'd twice saved Cambridge from epidemics of smallpox. Nor had there been a quarrel with the County Council over matters of public health – the medical officers had always come to an agreement. His work had been largely unseen and unspectacular but Cambridge owed him a very great deal. 37 07 29d

**1938**

1938 12 16

Crematorium opens, Huntingdon Road [1.4]

**1939**

1939 03 04

Tuberculosis work has been carried on in Camden Place for 25 years. Now the old dispensary is being demolished with a new clinic adjoining Shire Hall, Castle Hill opened by Prof Ryle. It is equipped with an X-ray apparatus of the highest quality with a skilled radiologist in charge of it. Now the death rate from tuberculosis in Cambridgeshire was one of the lowest. The new dental caravan was also on display 39 03 04a

**1942**

1942 07 31

Death of Dr. F.L. Nicholls. The news of the death of Dr. Frederick Lucius Nicholls, O.B.E., on Thursday of last week, came as a great shock to the village of Fulbourn and to a wide circle of friends, colleagues and admirers in the county and still further afield. For nearly 55 years Dr. Nicholls had practised in Fulbourn and the neighbouring villages, and his skill, kindness and ever-present sense of public duty endeared him to all with whom he came into contact. Some of the older residents will remember him many years ago, when he was to be seen on horseback visiting his patients, and will have seen him riding up to the doors, and, whilst still in the saddle, knock with his riding whip, and

often prescribe by the road-side; and now that he has passed on, his generosity of heart can be recorded with gratitude, for many families have benefited by his care and attention, but never received a bill for his professional service. He refused to be enrolled as panel practitioner, preferring to retain the old family doctor tradition, but he was always ready to respond to all appeals for his services. During the last war successfully conducted a hospital in the village without any remuneration, and for which he received the O.B.E. in the post-war honours list. During these years of national difficulty he made it a rule never to make any charge for professional services to any members of servicemen's families 42 07 31 CIPof

1942 10 05

Frank Robinson, former Medical Officer Health Cambs dies in river, career – 42 10 05a

### **1943**

1943 01 11

Mobile Operating Theatre attached to Red Cross Flying Squad – 43 01 11

1943 07 03

E. Saville Peck retires from Pharmaceutical Society council – career - 43 07 03

### **1945**

1945

Blantyre Home for blind formed [446.12.3]

### **1946**

1946

Voluntary Association for Maternity & Child Welfare wound up [2.17]

### **1947**

1947

Ambulance service jump gun to become first to carry patients free of charge - unique- comes under NHS June 1948 [5.4, 446.1 1.3]

### **1948**

1948

Nursing Association wound up [1.4]

1948 02 16

The first case dealt with by Mr Harry Edwards, a leading psychic healer at the service of healing of the Cambridge Spiritualist Healing Guild was a four-year old of Ramsey who was afflicted with infantile paralysis last August and has not been able to walk properly since. He was carried by his mother on to the dais wearing an iron support on his left leg. This was removed. Mr Edwards placed his hands around the boy's back and a few seconds later he was walking. For the remainder of the afternoon he was romping around the front of the hall as happy as any child could be 48 02 16

1948 05 12

Sir - "In reply to a gaily-coloured invitation to have my eight-month old daughter immunised from diphtheria, free of charge, I took her to the Auckland Road Clinic, Cambridge. I had experience of this clinic during the war as an ambulance driver. What I found horrified me. I found makeshift surroundings completely unsuited and of dubious cleanliness and that instead of the babies being isolated at this special time the room was occupied by 20 or 30 school children, some with scabs on their faces, some with colds, some hardly clean, all waiting for treatment. I waited for half an hour from the time of my appointment and as the doctor had not yet arrived I decided not to risk the baby's health any longer in such an environment and went home. If we are to have any kind of National Health Service that will work this kind of thing will have to stop" - Margaret Phillips 48 05 12

1948 06 23

By June 18th 89% of the general practitioners in Cambridge and county had accepted service under the new Health Service Act. A preliminary list of the doctors was pinned up in all post offices yesterday. Formerly the number of insured people in this area was 75,000. From July 5th the number will have more than doubled - the population of the area being 160,000. In spite of all that has been written about the National Health Service many are fogged about what they should do. Everyone over 16 can choose his or her own doctor. People wishing to do so may still go to their usual doctor as a private patient 48 06 23

### **1949**

1949 07 19

Mass radiography is gradually gaining popularity throughout the country and larger numbers of people are showing willingness to have an X-ray examination. One way in which the length of time taken has been cut down is through the mobile van – thought to be one of the first of its kind in the country. Cambridge is one of the lucky towns included in its area and quite a number of local factory are taking advantage of the facility. Recently it visited Pyes, where approx 1,900 people submitted themselves for X-rays. This represents 84% of the employees

### **1950**

1950 03 01

A swifter and more efficient ambulance service is in action this week – thanks to radio control. This innovation, which has already proved its worth with the police and fire brigade, has had a successful trial with the county ambulance service. Radio control was fitted to their four ambulances and two utilicons by Pye Telecommunications and all vehicles are in constant call from the control room, newly equipped with receiver, transmitter and microphone. A number of Cambridge commercial firms have now followed the lead of Camtax in installing radio telephones and Cambridge must be among the world's most advanced towns in the field of radio control 50 03 01

1950 06 09

The Cambridge Communist Party has presented a further 100 signatures – making 400 in all – to Cambridge Town Council protesting against the proposed increase in the price of Gwydir Street baths. Many people in Cambridge were without proper washing facilities and have to use the public baths. Judging by the addresses of the petitioners many have also to bear the expense of bus fares and the proposed increase of 50% would be a further burden - particularly for those with large families and old age pensioners 50 06 09

1950 09 28

Polio victim dies in Iron Lung [1.14]

### **1951**

1951 01 20

Flu epidemic - 900 cases in week [1.15]

1951 11 13

Four more cases of poliomyelitis have been reported in Cambridge, bringing the total to eight. Three of the new cases are schoolchildren, the other is an adult. They have all been reported in the earliest stages of the disease. The four earlier cases are rapidly getting better 51 11 13

### **1953**

1953 05 16

Step against cancer - opening of new University Laboratories at Addenbrooke's, director Prof. Mitchell [1.19]

1953 08 01

Mass chest X-Rays introduced [1.20]

## **1955**

1955 11 12

Archibald Rayner, dentist, dies – 55 11 12a

1955 11 22

St John Ambulance Brigade has been given a new headquarters building in memory of the later Rev. Dr T. Fitzwilliam, President of Queens' college. It is one of the most marvellous things that has ever happened in the history of the organisation and when finally opened next year Fitzpatrick House will be something to be proud of. 55 11 22c & d

## **1956**

1956

Polio vaccine declared safe, wholesale vaccination programme planned [1.21]

1956 09 08

The Queue to join the 'Quiet Service' – ambulance article 56 09 08a & b & c

## **1957**

1957 04 29

Countess Mountbatten of Burma visited Cambridge to receive the gift of Fitzpatrick House in Barton Road and declare it open as the new county headquarters of the St John Ambulance Brigade. Then on Lammas Land she inspected more than 300 men, women, boys and girls who make up the Brigade and presented the Grand Prior's Badge to nursing cadet Averil Turville. 57 04 29a & b & c [1.23] [4.5]

1957 09 20

The Cambridge Christian Spiritualist Church held a service of spiritual healing at the Guildhall to commemorate their 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee. Mr Gordon Taylor lead the demonstration, treating a man with rheumatoid arthritis: when he walked onto the stage he was unable to comb his own hair, after Mr Taylor had manipulated his joints he could. He also improved hearing and restored sight. 57 09 20 & a

1957 11 21

A Selwyn College undergraduate has died in Addenbrooke's Hospital after being seriously ill with poliomyelitis. The Medical Officer said there are eight recently-notified cases in Cambridge; the others are all children ranging from infancy to 11 years. Two are members of the same family. All are in hospital. 57 11 21

## **1958**

1958 08 19

The Gray Club began in 1955 for ex-pupils of the Open Air School but now works with handicapped people organising a programme of outings and competitions. Long lines of cars, invalid carriages and the occasional ambulance can be seen outside the City Football Club ground where they meet. Lady Adrian, herself physically handicapped, is its President and the search for new members goes on. There is a very real need for a permanent club building open every day where they could find companionship while their carers go shopping. 58 08 19b

1958 09 01

Dr Henry Roderick came to Cambridge as police surgeon and surgeon to the post office and was present at the last hanging at the old Cambridge Gaol. He came particularly interested in the treatment of crippled children in the 1920s though some parents refused to have their children treated by what were then new methods of surgery. He started the first orthopaedic out-patients sessions at Addenbrooke's Hospital together with country clinics where nurses visited people in their own homes. 58 09 01 & a



## **1959**

1959 04 25

The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The first detachment (women) was formed in Cambridge in 1910 and followed by Bourn, Swavesey, Shelford & Willingham. The first men's detachment was formed at Melbourn in 1913. With the coming of the First World War valuable work was done at hospitals in Cintra Terrace and Wordsworth Grove which laid the foundation for their well-established reputation for invaluable service 59 04 25c [2.10]

1959 11 26

Cambridge has a problem with smoky chimneys. Domestic smoke contains a high proportion of tar which sticks to everything it touches. The 'prefabs' at Church End, Cherry Hinton and Histon Road are a very bad example of the smoking low chimney. The 'cosy coal fire' is by no means as innocent outside the house as it looks to be inside the grate and the rights of the individual should not include the right to choke his neighbour. Smoke Control Orders should be sought, the Public Health Inspector reported. 59 11 26a, b & c

## **1960s    *The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date***

## **1960**

1960 08 11

The mobile Mass Radiography Unit has taken 200,000 X-ray photographs in the region since it extended its service to the general public in 1949. Since then deaths from TB have fallen from 24,000 to 3,000 a year. But there has been a marked increase of tubercular infection amongst young people in Cambridge. The town plays host to a large number of people from abroad who come seeking building or factory work and one source could infect ten others. 60 08 11a

1960 10 17

Cambridge's public health inspector told how he entered one house to find the occupants had long ceased to use the lavatory. They threw all their rubbish screwed up in papers into one of the streets. Later a police woman, looking at photographs, noticed a baby wrapped up in newspapers lying in a corner of the room. Restaurants could be unhygienic and in one he found a waiter with leprosy. The standard of housing in Cambridge is low: there are streets and streets of houses which in northern cities would have been pulled down many years ago. A smoke control order should be imposed on the centre of the city as smoke from ordinary household fuels is the most pernicious of all. 60 10 17

1960 10 19

Solomon Greenburgh, public analyst describes role – 60 10 19

1960 11 11

The school dental service in Cambridgeshire is rapidly becoming a mere toothache service: in the rural area there is half a school dentist for 12,000 children. The amount of dental decay in children has doubled in the last ten years and is increasing. Half the youngsters will require artificial teeth in their late teens or early twenties but they will not get them as there will not be dentists to make them. Parents are meeting increasing difficulty in arranging treatment for their children with fully occupied N.H.S. practitioners and new residents find it practically impossible. 60 11 11a

## **1962**

1962 02 01

A 19-year old Cambridge undergraduate now in an Ipswich isolation hospital as a smallpox suspect may not have the disease at all. Although living in Bradford he had not been in contact with smallpox victims there and may be suffering from vaccine poisoning. All those at Pembroke College who have been in contact with him are being traced but other students are not being vaccinated. 62 02 01

1962 03 19

A chapel for the deaf and dumb in Romsey Terrace was packed with people for its ordination. The service was taken and translated into deaf and dumb language by Mr E.G. Gollup, the Missioner. More than £900 is still needed to finish paying for the timber-built chapel which seats about 60 and has an expected life of 30 years. The Ely Diocesan Deaf and Dumb Association's work began a great many years ago and a hall – close to the chapel – had been used as a meeting place. But people found it easier to pray in a church or chapel and needed a space apart where they could worship. 62 03 19

1962 09 26

Mrs C. Clark has been secretary of the Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind for 15 years. She supervises two homes for the blind in Cambridge as well as the blind workers' shop in Regent Street. But there is more: she deals with the loan of wireless sets – there are over 250 at present, visits blind people in need of help and arranges parties or outings. There is a 'talking books' system and two blind undergraduates who had difficulty in finding textbooks were grateful to the people who read the information to them. Volunteers are needed to take people out for walks or help with teas at the weekend when the domestic staff are off-duty. 62 09 26

### **1963**

1963 06 14

The firm of J.E. Hanger of Brooklands Avenue is concerned with the supply and repair of artificial limbs. For nearly 50 years they have dealt entirely with legs. Measurements are taken, appliances fitted and minor or emergency repairs are undertaken. The workshop has legs of all shapes, sizes and styles, with or without shoes and socks or stockings. Repainted wooden feet are hung up to dry and a grinder is used for smoothing rough metal surfaces. Shelves of screw-top jars contain nuts, bolts and screws 63 06 14a

1963 10 21

St Raphael Club opened, set up 8 years ago to help physically handicapped [Misc.1.1]

### **1964**

1964 03 20

Although the pharmacy of A. Sidney Campkin and Sons of Rose Crescent is modern, it retains unique links with a long history. It still offers for sale Brewster's balsham of squills, horehound and aniseed as well as ear canker lotion for dogs. In 1955 the business passed to Mr T.E.W. Howell and now has a labour force of more than 60. It has had a 'facelift' but is still one of the older-fashioned chemists of Cambridge. 64 03 20d

1964 09 17

Dust from Norman Cement works about average [13.2]

1964 10 09

Cambridge air is only a little less dirty than that of Newcastle-on-Tyne with a considerable health hazard from smoke. Now a programme of control orders will be introduced at a cost of £18,000 a year to make Cambridge a smoke-free city by 1985. But the greatest danger came from vehicle emissions, there was an inadequate supply of smokeless fuel and it would involve hardship for old people, councillors argued. 64 10 09

1964 10 23

Solomon Greenburgh, Cambridge Public Analyst undertakes post-mortems and food contamination – feature – 64 10 23c

1964 11 20

The Cambridge Society for the Blind runs two homes in Glisson Road providing comfortable surroundings for 20 people and operates a small shop in Regent Street selling handicrafts made by the blind. Those registered are allowed craft materials at cost price, receive a free radio licence or get a rebate on the cost of a television licence. They also have access to the Nuffield Talking Book Library.

The newly-formed Cambridge Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind provides the opportunity for meetings and discussion at the Barnwell Community Centre 64 11 20 cdef

1964 12 18

Cyril Eastwood, Cambridge Medical Officer of Health, profile – 64 12 18b

### **1965**

1965 02 06

Extra smoke control area agreed (1966 exempt college fire places which only used ceremonially) [13.3]

### **1967**

1967 07 20

Cambridge Advisory Centre for Young People offers advice on birth control and relationships; most of clients from university – 67 07 20

1967 11 21

St Raphael Club opened in Hawthorn Way in 1963, have 150 handicapped people – feature – 67 11 21

### **1969**

1969

Guide Dogs for Blind branch formed [4.9]

1969 03 19

Gwydir Street public baths opened in 1927; part may be turned into sauna – 69 03 19c

### **1970**

1970

University Dental service set up 1970 - 71 07 20 [8.6]

1970 02 27

National Health Service new buildings in Vinery Road – 70 02 27a

1970 09 01

New smoke control orders agreed, (1971 Newnham area added, protest over log fires but get chop 1973) [13.4]

1970 10 26

Area VD rates increased 300% since 1959 [8.5]

### **1972**

1972 11 07

First health centre set up, Brookside. GPs surgeries, school clinics, private dentists, health visitors etc under one roof [8.8]

### **1973**

1973

Ambulance HQ moved to New Addenbrooke's after 19 years at Ditton Walk [4.2]

1973 09 04

Parking places reserved for disabled [6.4]

1973 08 21

A group of doctors who set up a hard drugs clinic in Cambridge during the 1960s believe they have now contained the spread of heroin addiction in the city. The first full report on almost seven years

work by the Containment Unit for Drug Misuse has been produced by Dr Ross Mitchell, a Cambridge consultant psychiatrist. The unit was established to deal with hard drug addiction and he is not sure whether the same methods could be used to deal with the spread of "soft" drugs. "The misuse of drugs like cannabis and LSD have a large personal, political and ideological component. Our concern should be with young people at risk and we should attempt to set up facilities which will recognise this risk and try to provide continuing support", he said 73 08 21

## **1974**

1974 03 26

First year review (1975) says it catastrophic & chaotic, service too big to be intelligently run from an administration in London which pumps out enormous quantities of paper to Area Health Authorities with less staff [12]

1974 04 02

NHS reorganisation - administrative change only, to bring together hospital service, general practice & local community health services which used to function independently. Old admin bodies scrapped & new are: Dept of Health East Anglian Regional Health Authority, based Union Lane (succeeding EA Regional Hospital Board). Under them are 3 Area Health Authorities responsible for day-to-day running of each of their areas - Cambridgeshire, Suffolk & Norfolk. Cambridgeshire based at Purbeck House, Hills Rd. They have below them district management teams of trained health service administrators & between them will replace the present individual hospital management committees & boards of governors. There will be two district management teams, one based at Cambridge, one Peterborough. Liaising with these bodies will be Family Practitioner Committees who are replacing the NHS Executive councils, dealing with matters affecting family doctors, dentists, opticians & pharmacists. To represent the public interest & protect consumer Community Health Councils set up to be consumer watchdogs [9]

## **1975**

1975 01 02

by end of year "NHS locally grinding to juddering halt under a snowdrift of paper & legislation which had neither cash nor manpower to cope with"; doctors, surgeons & specialists well off, hospitals well equipped & all best of medical sciences gadgetry is on hand; what in great demand is nursing power ... people have been forgotten [11]

1975 09 16

"Now NHS sinks in a paper sea" (9.75) [13]

1975 10 02

Gwydir St baths losing £7,000 pa, boilers 2<sup>nd</sup> hand when installed 50 years ago [8.2]

1975 11 01

Cambridge's £60,000 Hester Adrian Centre was described as an "outstanding achievement" by the Minister for the Disabled, Mr Alf Morris at its official opening. The Centre provides work facilities for both mentally and physically handicapped people. He paid tribute to the co-operation between Cambridge St Raphael Club, the Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare Association and the County Social Services Department. "It is a matter of deep concern to the Government that in the field of the handicapped, there is so much that still needs to be done to bring facilities up to the standard we accept as necessary", he said 75 11 01

## **1977**

1977 04 04

St John Ambulance new HQ opened [4.5]

1977 03 09

Doctors not move Brookfields Health Centre as will be too expensive to run [12.2]

1977 07 05

Cherry Mann's fight for independence has ended because she has died. And only death could have been her conqueror. She died weighing less than five stones. For 36 years – she was 38 when she died – she was the victim of a rare disease which turned 80 per cent of her body to chalk. She was incurable, and knew it; she could only move the forearm and three fingers on one hand. Yet she wrote in laborious long hand stories for BBC's Children's Hour, poetry and gained her O & A levels. She fought for a home especially adapted to her needs and moved in when others like her had given up hope to wither away in geriatric hospitals. Her ambition was to help people. "I'll fight", she used to say, "To the day I die". And that was just what she did. 77 07 05

## **1978**

1978

Camtad - Cambridge campaign to tackle acquired deafness established [6.2]

1978 07 11

King's Hedges junior and infants' schools in Cambridge have closed because of a dysentery outbreak, three weeks after the first pupils went down with the disease. The number of children being kept at home has been rising daily – over 120 children and staff absent yesterday – and it is obvious they can no longer function normally. They may never know where the infection came from, with a changing number of children with the symptoms. If there is just one case in the school the very number of people using the building means it is likely to be passed on repeatedly 78 07 11

## **1979**

1979 08 20

Britain's latest heart transplant patient, London builder Keith Castle, was sitting up in a chair at Papworth Hospital less than 48 hours after his major operation. Mr Terence English, the consultant surgeon who led the 12-strong heart transplant team said the 5½-hour operation went very smoothly and the new heart was functioning perfectly normally without assistance. Mr Castle received the heart of 21-year-old golf professional Duncan Prestt who died after a car crash in Ely. CEN 20.8.1979

## **1980**

1980 08 19

Cambridge Diet launched USA, devised Dr Alan Howard from Dept Medicine, Addenbrooke's; (forms charitable trust, puts £100,000 pa into medical research 1984) [8.1]

## **1981**

1981 03 27

George Pateman Court, Tennis Road established by Cambridge Housing Society for disabled [6.6]

## **1982**

1982 07 28

The Cambridge Blind Shop in Regent Street is to close, ending a tradition that goes back 50 years. Its original purpose was to provide an outlet for the work of local blind people who relied on basket-making, chair-caning or knitting for an income. Today the same necessity does not really exist and the number of local craftsmen has dwindled, making the shop no longer viable. 82 07 28 [4.12]

1982 01 05

Secret wartime experiments involving the production of deadly anthrax serum were conducted at the Institute of Animal Pathology on Milton Road. Now doubts remain about the safety of a piece of land where the carcasses of 12 horses were buried. Details have emerged as the university has applied for planning permission for housing on land close to the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory. The risk of infection is minimal and they plan to cover the immediate area with a concrete slab. 82 01 05 & 05a

## **1984**

1984 08 30

Experts say Cambridge has as many as 350 drug addicts, a bigger proportion than in London and five times the official number. But it has fewer facilities and no proper advice centre for anyone to turn to. Last year there was a 44 per cent increase in arrests for dealing and 577 for drugs offences generally. In addition there is the massive and hidden drugs world serviced quite legally by family doctors who supply prescriptions for tranquilisers and sleeping pills to a quarter of a million patients, mainly housewives and pressurised businessmen 84 08 30

## **1985**

1985 05 22

Cambridge has a big drug abuse problems with as many as 800-1,000 young people thought to be dependent on hard drugs. Twenty years ago the 'News' went on the city streets and found drug abusers when the agencies claimed there was no problem. As a result of the publicity Cambridge police set up a drugs squad which lead to an Association for the Prevention of Drug Addiction. Now an advice centre, 'The Bridge Project' will be opened in Mill Road. 85 05 22

## **1986**

1986 12 17

Ambulance HQ moves to Fulbourn Hospital [4.7]

1986 05 08

Panic-stricken callers are jamming the switchboard of Addenbrooke's Hospital asking if they can be tested for signs of radioactivity after the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster. A monitoring service has been set up for people who have visited Eastern Europe and fear they may have been contaminated. But most of the calls are from Cambridge people who have not been abroad. Scientists assure them there is no cause for alarm and environmental health officials say it is unnecessary to test milk and water supplies in the city 86 05 08

1986 10 03

Dedicated GP Rex Salisbury Woods began general practice and surgery in Cambridge in 1919 and retired aged 91 in 1983. He was an old-style family doctor to whom the most important people were his patients. His consulting rooms were a delight to wait in with comfortable armchairs and a cabinet in which he displayed his many sporting trophies. He was British Weight Champion – the old name for putting the shot - and a member of the Olympic teams in 1924 and 1928. 86 10 03

## **1987**

1987 05 21

A Government blunder over the ambulancemen's pay award last year landed Cambridgeshire ambulance service in trouble. They'd said the award would be funded by a rationalisation of budgets throughout the country and so would be funded at no extra cost. But this did not happen, resulting in a £1m bill. There was a 90 per cent cutback in the volunteer hospital car service where management alleged some drivers were making a fortune. The resulting row led to many drivers resigning. Now an investigate reveals it is more cost-effective than running ambulances 87 05 21

## **1988**

1988 03 23

New ambulance control centre opens Fulbourn Hospital [CEN 23.3.88]

1988 06 09

Health Food stores Rose Crescent closes after 57 years, one of first in country [CEN 9.6.88]

1988 09 29

New Institute of Public Health to be set up in Cambridge to pool knowledge etc [CEN 29.9.88]

1988 10 29

Chesterton Hospital new role as Cambridge's premier community health centre [CEN 29.10.88]

**1989**

1989 01 30

City-centre doctors move to outskirts city - Buchanan of Trinity St ¢CEN 30.1.89

1989 07 27

Cambridge to have prestige medical research institute - Cambridge Institute of Public Health, a partnership of University Medical Research Council & NHS ¢CEN 27.7.89

1989 09 08

Cambridge Biosynthetic Blood Products Unit to produce cancer-killing drugs, opens next year ¢CEN 8.9.89